



Model Toxics Control Act: Science Advisory Board

Background

When Washington voters passed the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) as Initiative 97 in 1988, they gave the Department of Ecology the authority to require the cleanup of hazardous waste sites located throughout the State.

One of the requirements of the Act is for Ecology to establish a Science Advisory Board to provide objective scientific information and advice to Ecology on technical subjects related to the cleanup of hazardous waste sites.

Membership

The Board is composed of five independent members who serve staggered three year terms. Board members are selected based on technical knowledge and competence in one of the scientific or technical disciplines needed to understand and provide advice on the many technical issues that are encountered in setting cleanup requirements. Ecology's goal is to ensure a wide breath of expertise, academic training, practical experience and diversity among the Board members. The Director of Ecology appoints the members of the board.

Current membership of the Science Advisory Board is as follows:

Dr. Hank Landau, Chair Geo Sphere, Inc.	Dr. Richelle Allen-King Washington State University
Dr. Bruce Duncan USEPA, Region 10	Dr. Majorie Norman Foster Wheeler Corporation
Dr. Elaine Faustman University of Washington	

November, 2001

Issues and Accomplishments

After passage of MTCA in 1988, Ecology work focused on preparation of regulations detailing the requirements for investigation and cleanup of contaminated sites. The Science Advisory Board had a key role in reviewing and advising Ecology on these regulations which were adopted in 1990 and 91. Their advice included: detailed review of the ranking system for assessing contaminated sites; cleanup standards; and, remedy selection requirements. The Board also reviewed a revision to the rules pertaining to industrial property cleanup, adopted in 1996.

During 1995-96, the Board participated in a comprehensive review of the MTCA statute and rules conducted by the Policy Advisory Committee. During that review and the subsequent process adopting rule amendments in 2001, the Board focused on providing advice on several key technical issues, including:

- The use of risk assessment in setting cleanup standards
- Ecological considerations in site cleanup
- Methods of determining soil contaminant levels that are protective of ground water
- Methods for assessing the risk posed by petroleum contamination

The current focus of the Board is on a variety of technical issues implementing the latest MTCA rule amendments.

For Additional Information

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